

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2006

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Rep. Cotty, Mr. DeLoach, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Senator Hayes, Mrs. Murphy, Rep. Neal Mr. Robinson, Rep. Walker, Senator Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions Mr. Stowe called the meeting to order. He outlined objectives for the morning session and welcomed visitors. Each member and visitor was asked to introduce him/herself.

II. The 2010 Goal: Where Are We Now Mr. Martin presented a detailed report on South Carolina's progress to the 2010 goal, emphasizing national measures on which South Carolina was in the "five fastest improving states" and the national ranking for National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests, college admission tests and Advanced Placement Program participation and performance. Achievement gap data incorporated performance on the PACT.

EOC members and guests heard from three colleagues: Dr. Ron Ingle, President of Coastal Carolina University emphasized the joint responsibilities of higher education for the performance in the kindergarten through grade twelve system; Ron Rhames, Chief Financial Officer at Midlands Technical College discussed the middle college initiatives and the intent of this program to serve students historically underserved in traditional programs; and Beth Wright, Superintendent in Florence School District Three, discussed the needs of today's students, the range of school district responsibilities and efforts to recruit and retain teachers in rural South Carolina.

Members and guests discussed a number of matters focusing on the struggle for good graduation rate data, the need to attract and retain teachers and the interrelationships among the challenges.

Members and guests recessed for lunch. The EOC reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

III. Approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2006. The minutes were approved as distributed.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach reported on behalf of the subcommittee:

(1) He informed the members of the conclusion of the field review of the English language arts and mathematics standards and the general considerations for change. The English language arts standards are scheduled for first reading by the State Board of Education in December, then EOC consideration in February. The mathematics standards are scheduled for first reading approval by the State Board of Education in January and EOC consideration in February.

(2) Mr. DeLoach reported on the consideration of the end-of-course test for United States History and Constitution. The test meets the technical requirements for item construction and details. The subcommittee is concerned about the potential gap between the standards as written and tested and the standards as taught. The

subcommittee recommended deferring approval until teachers could be surveyed and the subcommittee could understand why initial performance is very low. The EOC approval the subcommittee recommendation.

(3) Mr. DeLoach presented the criteria for selection of formative assessments (as amended in the subcommittee) and recommended approval. The EOC voted to approve the criteria.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Robinson reported on behalf of the subcommittee.

(1) The Report on the Study of Extended Learning Time (ELT) was presented for information. Neil Naftzger and Chloe Hutchinson presented a summary of the study conducted by Learning Point Associates. General recommendations include the following: Invest in mechanisms to help district officials and building administrative staff become more familiar with ELT best practices, especially those concerning engaging programming; Consider supporting the implementation of ELT self-assessment tools to help programs become familiar with quality criteria, evaluate how well their program meshes with these criteria and consider what changes are warranted; Adopt training and technical assistance efforts designed to help ELT staff understand how to adopt practices likely to result in positive developmental settings; Provide technical assistance around engaging parents and community partners in meaningful ways to guide and facilitate ELT program improvement; and Consider adopting policies that link different ELT funding streams in more intentional ways to cultivate the positive attributes associated with hybrid-funded programs.

(2) Retraining Grant Report: Mr. Robinson outlined the experiences in the retraining grant program this year. Every school reported; however, the evaluation process identified that a number of schools had not used their planning funds because the schools were not notified of the availability. The State Department of Education (SDE) has changed its notification strategies to ensure that schools are aware of the planning grants. The recommendations are forwarded to the State Board of Education.

(3) Teacher Recruitment and Retention Research Plan: Mr. Robinson outlined the study of Teacher Recruitment and Retention. The Task Force is to meet in January and a report, with recommendations, is anticipated for December.

(4) Update to Funding Model: Mr. Robinson outlined the changes to the EOC funding model to incorporate three tiers of funding: a general weight for each student and add-on weights to address either compensatory or programmatic issues.

(5) Homework Centers: Mr. Robinson drew members' attention to the report on homework centers provided by the State Department of Education

(6) EIA and EAA Budget Recommendations: Mr. Robinson presented the EIA Subcommittees recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2008 budget. Senator Fair, at the request of Rep. Cotty, amended the recommendation to provide an additional \$50,000 for CERRA to cover salary increases. The amendment to the subcommittee report passed; the amended budget recommendations passed.

C. Public Awareness

On behalf of the subcommittee Mr. Martin noted that there was no report beyond the report presented earlier in the day.

V. General Discussion

There being none, the EOC adjourned.